

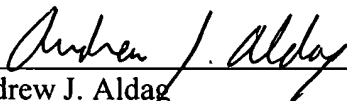
**Preliminary Amendment**  
**U.S. Patent Application No. 10/544,235**

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are presently pending. Claims 1-20 have been amended to clarify certain claim language and remove certain multiple claim dependencies, while new claims 21-25 have been added. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for examination, and favorable examination is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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